

UPPER MOUNT BETHEL TOWNSHIP
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
SPECIAL WORK SESSION MEETING
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 20, 2018 @ 4 PM

1. Chairman Bermingham Jr. called the Special Work Session Meeting to order at 4:02 pm.
2. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.
3. Present in addition to Chairman Bermingham Jr. were Supervisor Teel, Supervisor Due, and Township Manager Rick Fisher. Absent were Supervisor Pinter and Supervisor DeFranco.

Chairman Bermingham Jr. gave a brief summary of the meeting agenda, no decisions are being made and the meeting is primarily a discussion of the pros and cons of having police services in the Township and what is best for the community. Chairman Bermingham Jr. introduced Ron Stern from the DCED, to discuss and answer questions regarding options of police services.

Ron Stern spoke briefly on his position with the DCED and his thoughts on police regionalization. There was a discussion amongst the Supervisors and Ron Stern regarding the options of police services.

Public Comments

Charles Hentz stated his credentials and read a summary of police activity in our area and his thoughts on keeping the State Police as our current police service.

Patty Green asked about a feasibility study.

Brian Fox asked about the mailing that is supposed to be going out to the residents to get their opinions on whether we should be going through with police service and how important is it. Ron Stern responded that it is very important to get opinions from the citizens. Chairman Bermingham Jr. stated a survey will be going out to the citizens, it just has not been determined how or when.

Charles Cole commented that crime in the area has been the main topic of conversation. Charles asked for Ron Stern to speak more on the value of having police in regards to traffic, noise and speeding in the Township. Ron Stern responded by saying he is totally against patrol officers generating revenue through traffic offenses. Ron Stern stated that Pennsylvania is the only state that does have radar for municipal police officers.

Rich Klinge commented on the Township's liability if something was to go wrong. Chairman Bermingham Jr. stated that he spoke with Chief Mulligan and he stated that East Bangor's Insurance would cover if anything was to go wrong in Upper Mount Bethel Township.

Chairman Bermingham Jr. thanked Ron Stern for attending the meeting and then called for a five (5) minute recess.

Donna Quackenbush gave a summary of her credentials and experience in law enforcement. Donna stated her thoughts are that the Township options would either be the State Police or starting our own force.

Charles Cole commented that the traffic issues through Stone Church have been going on for years.

Alyssa Capone asked about the survey and will they be done per household or per household member.

Melody Smith asked about how tenants will be addressed in the survey if the survey is going to the homeowner.

Rich Klinge commented on the survey and what information will be provided to the citizens on the survey in regards to the problems that might arise if we start a police force.

Janet Pearson stated that the survey cannot be included in the tax bills.

Alyssa Capone asked how transparent will the surveys be. Chairman Bermingham Jr. stated the responses will be made available to the public.

Chairman Bermingham Jr. stated that a discussion with our Township Solicitor, Ron Karasek, will be on the January 14, 2019 agenda, in regards to getting a time frame on giving the Board of Supervisors an update on the previous police officers.

Chris Antoniou asked about the status of Lake Minsi. Supervisor Due stated the last update stated late winter/early spring for the project to begin.

Terry Barker asked about the percentage of responses and will it be enough to justify moving on with a police force.

Chairman Bermingham Jr. stated that if anyone would like to be added to the Township Newsletter to let him know.

There was a **MOTION** by Supervisor Teel, seconded by Supervisor Due to adjourn the Special Work Session Meeting at 6:25 pm. Vote:3-0.

Respectfully Submitted by Cindy Beck-Township Secretary